



THINK BLUE
MASSACHUSETTS

HANDLE WITH CARE

Smart Materials Handling to Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Whether you're running a warehouse, auto shop, or manufacturing facility—how and where you store your materials matters. Spills, leaks, and poorly stored supplies can send harmful pollutants straight into storm drains and nearby waterways.

Protect your site and your stormwater runoff:

- ▶ Store materials indoors or under cover whenever possible.
- ▶ Use secondary containment (trays or berms) for liquids and hazardous substances.
- ▶ Clearly label everything and keep a tidy storage area to prevent accidents and confusion.
- ▶ Ensure indoor floor drains are properly connected to the sanitary sewer system—not storm drainage—to prevent environmental contamination.

Stormwater pollution isn't always visible—but good housekeeping goes a long way in keeping your facility compliant and your local environment clean.

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Clean Water for You!**

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BMPs for Materials Handling

Most of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified below are non-structural and cost little or nothing to implement. This listing is not all-inclusive and other non-structural and structural BMPs can be implemented to further reduce the potential of contributing to stormwater pollution.

DO'S

- Store all materials away from storm drains and drainage paths.
- Keep lids sealed on containers when not in use.
- Clean up spills immediately using absorbent materials—not water.
- Inspect storage areas regularly for leaks and wear.
- Post signage and train staff on proper storage procedures.
- Use pallets to elevate containers off the ground.

DON'TS

- Leave containers exposed to rain or weather.
- Pour wash water or chemicals into floor drains or storm drains.
- Let spilled materials sit or absorb into pavement.
- Store materials directly on bare ground.
- Forget to check expiration dates or container conditions.
- Assume new staff already knows your BMPs.

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